self-reproach is, if possible, still more intolerable. Hence the ingenious stratagems of concealment which the mind is ever plotting, with at least temporary success. The person acts the hypocrite to himself, and uses as many contrivances to save appearances before the censor within, as to shield himself from the criticisms of the world without.

But let us suppose that the crime is now discovered, and let us mark the effect. It is one or other of the two following:—

the person is humbled and grieved, and becomes penitent and reformed—or more commonly the result is the very opposite, he becomes hardened, and sets the opinion of mankind at defiance. When this latter is the issue, the individual from that instant becomes more open and unblushing in criminality. He acts not only in contempt of the opinion of society, but in more direct rebellion against the dictates of conscience. The old motives which led him to conceal from the community the sins which he was committing, have now lost their force., and have taken with them almost all his old methods of concealing his sins from himself; and now he sins not only more openly, "but more greedily and recklessly. He feels like the gambler who has lost at one venture nearly his whole property; he thinks he may risk the remainder, it is so small. This is the feeling of the man whom crime hath deprived of peace of conscience ! he acts as if farther crime could scarcely make him more wretched.

It seems that there are cataracts in the descending stream of wickedness at which the fall is more tremendous than at other places. Let us take another illustrative case. Let us trace the descent of a criminal who has been hardened by the sentence pronounced upon him, and the punishment to which he has been subjected. Let us mark how he goes down step by step in the scale of being, and how the very interferences with him are the

means of hurrying him down the faster, as he breaks loose from them—just as the abutting rocks that would stop the rolling stone are often the means of making it take a more tremendous leap. Under the influence of some transient feeling, not without criminality, a youth, we shall suppose, is tempted to engage in some night foray which ends in pilfering, and he is in consequence apprehended, condemned, and subjected to confinement for a certain length of time. It is a critical period in his history. Suppose him to be brought to true repentance, we may have